28. (New) The immobilized metal ion affinity chromatography complex according to Claim 27, wherein said transition metal ion is Co^{2+}.

29. (New) The immobilized metal ion affinity chromatography complex according to Claim 24, wherein said complex offers two available valencies.

30. (New) The immobilized metal ion affinity chromatography complex according to Claim 29, wherein said two available valencies form strong, reversible complexes with adjacent histidine residues on the surface of a protein.

31. (New) An immobilized metal ion affinity chromatography purification method for purification of recombinant proteins, said method comprising:

(a) providing an immobilized metal ion affinity chromatography complex comprising:

(i) an aspartate metal chelating ligand; and

(ii) a transition metal ion complexed to said asparate metal chelating ligand;

(b) loading a mixture of cell lysate comprising a recombinant protein having a polyhistidine tail to bind with said complex; and

(c) eluting said recombinant protein with a suitable elutant to obtain a purified recombinant protein.

32. (New) The method according to Claim 31, wherein said aspartate metal chelating ligand is a tetradentate ligand.

33. (New) The method according to Claim 31, wherein said transition metal is complexed to said ligand in octahedral geometry.

34. (New) The method according to Claim 31, wherein said transition metal ion is selected from the group consisting of Fe^{2+}, Co^{2+}, Ni^{2+}, Cu^{2+} and Zn^{2+}.

35. (New) The method according to Claim 34, wherein said transition metal ion is Co^{2+}.